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TRENDS

ASSOCIATION OF AMERICAN RAILROADS

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

WASHINGTON, February 5, 1988 -- Freight traffic on major U.S. railroads during the week ended January 23 totaled 18.8 billion ton-miles, up 11.7 percent from the 16.8 billion carried in the comparable week of 1987.

Cumulative volume for the first three weeks of 1988 was an estimated 54.1 billion ton-miles carried, up 6.1 percent from the comparable period of last year.

Carloadings originated in the week ended January 23 totaled 416,608, up 11.9 percent from the corresponding week of last year, and 2.2 percent higher than the preceding week. Compared with last year, carloadings originated were up 15.2 percent in the East and 8.4 percent in the West.

Compared with the corresponding week of last year, 14 of the 20 major commodity groups increased. Coal increased by 15,526 cars (14.4 percent), grain showed a gain of 8,981 cars (37.5 percent), metals and products increased by 3,238 cars (42.4 percent), and chemicals and allied products were up by 2,502 cars (9.8 percent). Thirteen of the 20 commodity groups increased from the preceding week.

Piggyback

Piggyback freight traffic during the week ended January 16 totaled 99,908 trailers and/or containers, up 3.3 percent from the comparable week of 1987.

The cumulative volume of TOFC/COFC traffic for the first three weeks of the year was 262,439 trailers and/or containers, up 3.6 percent from 1987.

(more)

Following are carloadings of major railroads, by commodity groups, for the week ended 1/23/88:

	Loadings in Week ended January 23, 1988		Change from Corresponding Week 1987			Change from Preceding Week	
	Cars		Cars	Percent		Cars	Percent
Grain	32,934	I	8,981	37.5	D	591	1.8
Other farm products	4,881	I	252	5.4	D	127	2.5
Metallic ores	10,610	D	2,397	18.4	D	2,456	18.8
Coal	123,710	I	15,526	14.4	I	7,332	6.3
Crushed stone, gravel and sand	11,816	I	1,590	15.5	I	1,756	17.5
Nonmetallic minerals	9,832	I	1,471	17.6	D	479	4.6
Grain mill products	10,904	D	436	3.8	D	593	5.2
Food and kindred products	11,691	I	778	7.1	I	49	0.4
Primary forest products	10,444	I	989	10.5	I	155	1.5
Lumber and wood products except furniture	7,887	D	249	3.1	I	790	11.1
Pulp, paper and allied products	12,636	D	156	1.2	I	687	5.7
Chemicals and allied products	27,914	I	2,502	9.8	I	408	1.5
Petroleum products	4,907	I	217	4.6	D	358	6.8
Stone, clay and glass products	9,121	I	822	9.9	I	541	6.3
Coke	5,537	I	1,610	41.0	D	229	4.0
Metals and products	10,874	I	3,238	42.4	I	283	2.7
Motor vehicles and equipment	20,040	D	1,144	5.4	I	612	3.2
Waste and scrap materials	9,572	I	1,455	17.9	I	508	5.6
Forwarder and shipper association traffic	2,683	D	154	5.4	I	194	7.8
All other carloads	78,615	I	9,467	13.7	I	482	0.6
Total Cars Loaded	416,608	I	44,362	11.9	I	8,964	2.2
Corresponding week of 1987	372,246						

	1988	1987	% Change
Total Cars Loaded (3 weeks)	1,199,898	1,133,879	I 5.8
Estimated revenue ton-miles (in billions):			
2 weeks ended January 16	35.3	34.1	I 3.5
Week ended January 23	18.8	16.8	I 11.7
3 Weeks cumulative	54.1	50.9	I 6.1

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